

New Books.

An Introduction to the present Practice of Surveying and Levelling. By A. CIVIL ENGINEER. Williams and Co., Strand.

THE subject is here treated in a plain, intelligible manner, and many useful practical hints and directions are included. The work supplies no actual want, being, in fact, one of the many books of the same sort which the railways called into being; but it is adapted to meamer comprehensions than some of them, and will be found useful.

The Electric Telegraph. By PETER PROGRESS. Clarke and Co., Gracechurch-street. 1847.

THIS is an interesting sketch of the progress of telegraphic communication, and a very lucid explanation of the means at present used, evidently foreseen by Shakespeare when he made Robin Goodfellow say,—

"I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes."

The electric telegraph affords one more proof of the fact, that those who *invent* are seldom so well rewarded (if at all) as those who *apply* the invention. A Mr. Rowland constructed an electric telegraph in 1816, and in pointing out what electricity might be made to do, gave a perfect description of the present electric telegraph. He clearly established the fact, that an electric current might be made to pass through a continuous wire of great length. In combating the objection that the subterranean part of the apparatus might be injured by mischievously-disposed persons, he jokingly remarks,—“If you cannot prevent this, hang the rogues if you catch them, curse them if you cannot, and mend it immediately in both cases.”

Government discouraged the inventor; he had not quite hit upon the right means either, and was told from the Admiralty, that “telegraphs of any kind were wholly unnecessary, and that no other than the one then in use would be adopted.” With more equanimity than is usually displayed in such cases, our author observes,—“I felt very little disappointment, and not a shadow of resentment on the occasion, because every one knows that telegraphs have long been great bores at the Admiralty!”

Correspondence.

PUBLIC PARKS.—COPENHAGEN FIELDS.

SIR,—The remarks of your correspondent respecting the erection of a parcel of slight-built houses over the once-famed Copenhagen Fields coincide so exactly with my feelings on the subject, that it gives me great pleasure to find I am not singular in my regret to see the play-ground of the northern part of the metropolis thus covered. I will not, therefore, trouble you with many remarks upon the subject, but trust you will give the full force of your ably-written periodical towards the redemption of this once delightful spot. No place can be better adapted by nature for a park than this. The varied surface of the ground, and the fine old trees that have still survived this brick and mortar improvement, will render it a comparatively easy task to render it so.

The increasing population of this vast metropolis renders it a matter of necessity that we should have some places of healthful resort, where we can obtain a little fresh air after the toil of the day in the smoky city. If this be not taken in hand soon, where are we to go?

I certainly cannot understand why the recommendation of the committee to which your correspondent alludes did not receive the attention it deserved, and can only suppose that the owners of the lands consulted their own interests only. Now, I hope, that it has been again mooted, some enterprising individuals will take up the subject and convene public meetings to petition Parliament, and that, too, without loss of time.

I, for my own part, will give all the aid in my power, and will thank you for any hints that can facilitate this desirable object.

Your insertion of this, perhaps, will call forth the remarks of some whose abilities will enable them to do greater justice to the subject.

Clapton, Nov. 8, 1847.

J. H. L.

Miscellaneous.

PREMIUMS FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS AND DECORATIVE ARTS.—The Society of Arts has offered a variety of premiums to promote original designs for decoration. “By first eliciting the design from the artist, and then honouring the manufacturer for realizing the design, the society hopes to extend practically the sphere of its utility, and especially to make the institution the means of easy communication between the artist, manufacturer, and merchant. For this purpose it is intended to register the address and change of address of each meritorious competitor, so that, on applying at the society’s house, any manufacturer may have the means of communicating with such artist, and may be enabled to obtain the best information respecting all objects of ornamental design.” The following are amongst the subjects:—1. For the best chalk or monochrome drawing, being an original composition; of children, half life-size, for a circular compartment, the silver medal and five pounds. 2. For the best chalk or monochrome drawing, being an original composition, of figures half-life size, to fill a spandrel of an equilateral arch of two centres, the silver medal and five pounds. 3. For the best cartoon, being an original composition, of a group of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, arranged ornamentally, a silver medal and three pounds. 4. For the best cartoon of an arrangement of the white lily, for a decorative purpose, the silver medal and two pounds. 5. For the best design for a chimney-piece, with bas-reliefs, scale, three inches to the foot, with working drawings, full size, the silver medal and ten pounds. For a model of a chimney-piece, with bas-reliefs, scale, three inches to the foot, and details full size, the silver medal and twenty pounds. 6. For the best original design for a stained-glass window, to suit a room or passage, in the Italian style of architecture, the silver medal and ten pounds. 7. For the best original design and working drawings for a pair of carriage gates, in iron, scale, two inches to the foot, and details full size, the silver medal and ten pounds. 8. For the best design and working drawings for a pair of folding-doors, with bas-reliefs on the panels, the silver medal and ten pounds. 9. Models of a door-knocker and scraper, the silver medal and five pounds. 10. For a design for an ornamental cast-iron pillar to support the roof of a railway platform, scale, three inches to the foot, the details full size, the silver medal and five pounds. 11. For a combined design for a finger-plate and lock furniture to match, the silver medal and five pounds. In the class of *architecture*, besides the premium for the best design for a labourer’s cottage, already mentioned, the society offers for the best original design for an intermediate railway station, the gold medallion. “There must be a campanile, or clock-tower, and a platform, 300 feet long, roofed over; also a porch, a banking-office, two waiting-rooms, a water-closet inside, and another outside; a kitchen, cellar, and three rooms for the station clerk. Scale, one-eighth of an inch to the foot, with such details to a larger scale as the author may consider necessary for the full development of his design.”

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHELMSFORD.—A new Roman Catholic Church at Chelmsford, Essex, was opened on the 21st ult. The style is early English of late character, or rather transition from the early English to the decorated, and the church consists of nave, two aisles, chancel, and two chapels, one at each end of the aisles. The nave is 57 feet long, 22 feet wide; aisles, 53 feet long, 11 feet wide; total width 44 feet inside; chancel, 22 feet long inside; height of nave, 34 feet inside; total length inside, 80 feet; and the cost about 2,500*l*. The windows are filled with stained glass, by Wailes, of Newcastle. The timbers of the roof of the nave and aisles are seen, the nave having what is called a “cradle roof.” The exterior is faced with chalk flints, with dressings of stone from Box Hill, near Bath. A belfry for a sanctus and another bell, surmounts the gable over the chancel arch. A porch on the south side forms a prominent feature of the edifice. The architect is Mr. J. J. Scoles, one of the honorary secretaries of the Institute of Architects; and Messrs. Curtis, of Stratford, are the contractors.

for the purpose on the spot, and consisting of gravel, broken brick, and lime,—a most durable composition, and a very serviceable appropriation of the refuse materials produced by the excavations, as well as by the operations of the workmen during the progress of the building. Many fragments have been found under the present floor in every part of the interior, shewing that the tiles were six inches square, and one in thickness, with no other polish than that conferred upon them by use. Next to these in point of date, and brought to view at the same time, are tiles 3½ inches square, with a plain jet black surface, similar to those still remaining on the high altar-piece in the choir of Fountains Abbey.”

Our authors then proceed to describe the various alterations and the additions that were made in succeeding times: these were begun as early as the reign of King John, when the west front was taken down for the purpose of being rebuilt, and remained long in ruins. William de Trumpington, who died in 1235, did much towards the completion of the church, including, as the chronicler writes,—“a certain covering (which is commonly called labreschura, or ceiling), with which he concealed the row of timbers above the famous image of the Blessed Virgin, lest the antiquity of the rafters or beams should offend the eyes of beholders; for a similar reason he also whitened the walls of a great part of the church, which the long-continued filth of dust had disfigured; so that if he had completed what he began, by a pleasing change he would have renewed the time-worn church.”

The annexed plan (Fig. 1), taken from Messrs. Buckler’s work, shews the church as it now is, the darkened portions indicating the early parts of the building which remain. The whole length from east to west, according to the account published by the Society of Antiquaries, with John Carter’s drawings, is 600 feet.

Fig. 2 is an elevation of the north transept, shewing the cone which terminated the staircase turret, and the tier of blank arches which ornamented the lower part of the gable.

Fig. 3 represents the interior of the belfry: “never having been covered with cement, this chamber exhibits most fully the construction of its walls; the brickwork of which they consist is carried, in regular courses, through the deep reveals of all the openings to the exterior. The peculiar formation of the interior arches of the windows, and the various ornamental piercings on the sides, are not so easily described as represented with the pencil, and the view in the interior, shewing these curious particulars of the Norman brickwork, and at the same time the ancient timber framing by which the spire was supported, may be deemed useful and interesting.”

The church under consideration has so many singularities and beauties, that all students and lovers of our ancient architecture should visit and examine it for themselves, taking with them Messrs. Buckler’s volume as a suggestive and valuable guide.

CHANGES IN LINCOLN.—In almost every quarter of the city houses are being erected, says the *Cambridge Chronicle*. The county prison is in the course of rebuilding, for the purpose of carrying out the separate system. A new debtors’ prison is commenced. The old houses which hemmed in the county hospital are being pulled down. The London and York Company are completing the exterior of a large hotel. The London and York and Great Grimsby and Sheffield lines, with the various subsidiary works (such as bridges), are being constructed. A new covered market is in the course of formation. Small streets have been formed, and others are forming. The water company are proceeding rapidly with their works for supplying the city with water. A proprietary mill has been commenced. The new cattle markets, with an adjacent inn, have just been completed. The committee appointed to select a site for the public cemetery, have, it is stated, fixed upon three fields opposite the ruins of the Monks’ Abbey. The old abbey and grounds ought to be included, and, at no very large cost, the eastern end of the ruin might be fitted up for a chapel. It is stated that bricks are scarcely procurable in Lincoln, the great demand of late having cleared out all the brickyards. In consequence, parties are compelled to import bricks from a distance.